

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From some Editorial Notes.

A Good Example.—Elsewhere we print a circular letter which went to all the members of the South Carolina Association, in their journal, and it is well worth your careful consideration. Do not the same conditions apply to your own journal? There is no earthly reason why reputable manufacturers whose products we use should not support your own journal if they do any advertising at all. . . .

Family Addition.—*Journal of the Oklahoma Medical Association.*—And now comes the newest of our states—Oklahoma—bearing gifts and olive branches in its hands and presents to the family of state medical organization journals our youngest born. With June is issued Volume I, Number 1, of the *Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association*.

From an article on "On the Relation of Anticyclonic Weather to the Prevalence of La Grippe and Pneumonia on the Northern Hemisphere, With Special Reference to Recent Epidemics of Pneumonia in Chicago and San Francisco" by C. M. Richter, M.D., San Francisco.

It is the presence of the Pacific Ocean and the westerly direction of the winds that insures high winter and cooler summer temperatures for San Francisco. . . .

It will impress you deeply when you study this second chart before you, giving the even temperature and humidity line for San Francisco for every day of the eleven years, 1888 to 1899, in contrast to the lines of pneumonia mortality and air pressure. . . .

From an article on "When Is Gonorrhea Cured?" by John C. Spencer, M.D., San Francisco.

It is a simple answer to the question, "When is gonorrhea cured?" to say offhand, "When the gonococci have disappeared from, or are no longer demonstrable in the patient's secretions."

Upon this bald statement, however, depends a responsibility that is second to none in the entire realm of medicine; one that calls for the highest degree of patient and painstaking perseverance and diagnostic technique. So much depends on our dictum in the pronouncement of a final cure of this social curse that the responsibility almost appalls. . . .

From an article on "Seborrhea and Its Sequelae" by Ernest Dwight Chipman, M.D., San Francisco.

Possibly no disease of the skin is considered more banal and innocuous than seborrhea; and yet a large number of the cases seen by dermatologists are of definite seborrheic nature or in some way are related to what may be called the seborrheic state.

From an article on "Clinical Features of Influenza Since the Pandemic of 1889-1890" by Herbert C. Moffitt, M.D., San Francisco.

When the kind invitation from your committee came to me a short time since to read a paper upon opsonic work and bacteriotherapy, it was accepted without due consideration. It needed little reflection to demonstrate that my personal experience has been as yet entirely too meager to admit of a paper of any value. We all too hastily try to assimilate and in-

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News Items

"George Harvey is in the County Jail (Oroville, California), following arrest at the Western Pacific depot as an accused narcotic racketeer. Harvey is said to have signed the name of a railroad employee to a note asking a local doctor to pass drugs to him for delivery to the railroad head, wanting them for an ill person on the train" (Sacramento *Bee*, August 15, 1933). We hope this is the individual concerning whom a warning was published in August "News Items."

"The lure of dark eyelashes . . . a few drops of mysterious fluid . . . blindness or disfigurement—such is the true life story which today impelled the Board of Medical Examiners to launch a determined drive against purveyors of dangerous beauty concoctions. Doctor Pinkham, secretary of the board, revealed a series of pitiful stories of women who would be more beautiful and instead were disfigured for life. One girl in San Francisco submitted to having her eyelashes dyed. The liquid seeped into her eyes, and in a couple of days she was blind. Another woman, a beauty parlor operator, agreed to have a couple of lash-dye salesmen demonstrate their solution on her. Her face was badly disfigured, and the salesmen disappeared. Their business address in Hollywood proved fictitious. 'It is a serious thing,' stated Doctor Pinkham, 'for anyone to use a solution of unknown content around the eyes. Some of them contain aniline derivatives, and may either cause blindness or serious dermatitis.' He has suggested to the State Board of Cosmetology that it issue an order prohibiting licentiates from using potent liquids around the eyes. The cooperation of all affected state boards is being sought to drive out all fake beauty experts who have taken a heavy toll of beauty and sometimes of life" (Sacramento *Bee*, August 17, 1933). *The Journal of the American Medical Association* July 29, 1933, page 363, reported at least five severe cases of conjuncto-dermatitis following the use of a certain eyelash dye, manufactured in Los Angeles.

"What price beauty? The answer was to be found today in records of the Wallach-Aeberli-White manslaughter trial resulting from the death of Mrs. Aleen Farnum during a face-peeling operation. How the subject was 'put to sleep' and layer upon layer of strange drug mysteries applied to her face, was revealed in a detailed description of face rejuvenation methods. . . . As related before the coroner's jury, and alleged by the prosecution at the trial, 'patients' were given sedative capsules the night before the beauty treatment to 'quiet their nerves.' On the date of the 'face peel' another capsule and a hypodermic are administered, the latter assertedly by Dr. I. A. Wallach, a young neighborhood physician. . . ." (Los Angeles *Record*, July 14, 1933.) (Previous entry, August "News Items.")

"Christmas E. White and Miss Anna Aeberli, recently freed on manslaughter charges in connection with the death of Mrs. Aleen Farnum, following a beauty operation, today were under orders to leave California. Municipal Judge Ben Scheinman of Los Angeles gave the pair a suspended sentence of six months each and placed them on two years' probation after they appeared before him and pleaded guilty to

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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